Press release
For immediate release

High Level Event Bappenas – United Nations Forum on Development Cooperation 2021

JAKARTA, 13 SEPTEMBER 2021 – The United Nations (UN) together with high level officials from Indonesia’s Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas), line ministries, and other relevant stakeholders met on Sept. 13 for a strategic dialogue on the accomplishments detailed in the UN Country Results Report 2020, identifying opportunities for future engagement and discussing the Government of Indonesia and the UN’s collaborative efforts to mitigate the health, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 disrupted Indonesia’s impressive progress on poverty and unemployment reduction, gender equality, and access to health and education. But its onset also came at a critical phase in the country’s planning, coinciding with the end of a five-year development framework the United Nations had drawn up with the Government of Indonesia that ran from 2016 to 2020. How Indonesia moves forward, in a world irrevocably altered by COVID-19, was the focus of a joint BAPPENAS–UN Forum 2021. The forum also launched a new joint plan, officially known as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021–2025 (UNSDCF).

H.E. Suharso Monoarfa, Minister of National Development Planning said that the pandemic has driven the government to reshape its development priorities and strategies, not only for this year but also for following year, marking 2022 as a key year to ease the pressure of the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthening a foundation for supporting economic transformation for medium and long terms. “To address these issues, Indonesia’s 2022 government annual work plan (RKP) will focus on economic recovery plan and structural reforms, including climate investment, institutional, national health system, social protection system, education and skills sector reforms, enhancement of research and innovation, human resource development, and expansion of infrastructure development”, the Minister added. He also highlighted that immediate attention must be channeled to medium and long-term economic transformation.

“Our partnership with UN agencies is crucial to resilient recovery, and of course to expand access and deployment of vaccines. I believe that access to vaccines for everyone, everywhere, is a precondition for resilient recovery. The government, especially Bappenas, continues to look forward to working together with the UN Family in Indonesia”, the Minister said. In making SDGs achievement back on track amid the setback caused by pandemic, UN agencies with Bappenas work together to formulate financing strategies in Indonesia’s SDGs Roadmap, including the establishment of SDGs Financing Hub.

“We are committed to make SDGs Financing Hub as an important platform to not only create innovative financing and financing strategies, but also to coordinate and synergize all stakeholders concerning with Indonesia development and to mobilize resources to fill SDG financing gap”, the Minister added.
The UN agencies and the Government of Indonesia also work together on a UN joint programme to support Indonesia in scaling-up inclusive social protections to respond to the pandemic. At the same time, the joint programme ensures that the most vulnerable groups, including women and children, are protected against adverse socio-economic impacts of the crisis through the “UN COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund” and UN Joint program on “Adaptive Social Protection for all in Indonesia”.

Speaking at the Forum, UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia Valerie Julliand said that following a year that “has tested us in unprecedented ways” a combination of “flexibility in adapting to the challenges of COVID-19” and steadfastness to inclusive values would be crucial to bringing Indonesia on course to realize the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda. “The core principle, etched throughout the UNSDCF, is our pledge to Leave No One Behind (LNOB), which is our commitment to eradicate poverty in all its forms, to end discrimination, and to reduce the inequalities that leave people behind,” Julliand said.

The Resident Coordinator commended Indonesia’s developmental achievements between 2016 and 2020 and reiterated the UN’s commitment to implementing UNSDCF 2021 – 2025 alongside the Government. The newly launched framework has four strategic priorities: inclusive human development; inclusive economic transformation; green development, climate change and natural disasters; and innovation to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

“SDGs have been embedded in our successive Medium-Term National Development Plans (RJPMN), and these main national priorities have been reflected in the UNSDCF 2021-2025. This UNSDCF will be a guidance of the UN and Indonesia development cooperation for the medium terms 2021-2025”, Minister added. Although the UNSDCF 2021–2025 was conceived before the world had heard of COVID-19, its four strategic priorities are especially relevant today, Julliand said, “because they encompass the most urgent needs arising from the pandemic.”

UN-BAPPENAS FORUM was attended by more than 350 participants from UN agencies, line ministries, private sector, CSOs, academia, and other stakeholders, to discuss achievement, future challenges and opportunities, and to find ways towards resilient recovery.

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Access the full UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021–2025 here.

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